Jewish community in Pocahontas Co.

Books by Abraham I. Shinedling

History of the Beckley Jewish Community (Beckley, W. Va.) (with Manuel Pickus) (1955)

History of the Los Alamos Jewish Center (Los Alamos, N. Mex.) (1958)

WEST VIRGINIA JEWRY:

ORIGINS AND HISTORY

1850—1958

By

ABRAHAM I. SHINEDLING

Volume II

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MARLINTON

Marlinton is a town in east central West Virginia, located in Pocahontas County. It is the county seat of Pocahontas County, and is known as a hunting resort. Marlinton, situated southeast of Webster Springs and east of Richwood, had, in 1937, a general population of 1,586. In 1940, it was reported to have a total general population of 1,644; and in 1950, the United States Census gave the town a general population of 1,654.

The *AJYB* for 1927 reported that there were 11 Jews living in Marlinton in 1927, and in 1937 there were ten Jews or less residing in the town.

Several years after 1922, Harry Barbakow, now (1959) living in Princeton, W. Va., and his brother-in-law, Herman Kelmenson, moved from Thomas, W. Va., to Marlinton, where they opened up a dry goods and clothing store in partnership. Later, Harry Barbakow sold out his share in the store to Herman Kelmenson, who remained in Marlinton; while Harry Barbakow settled in Princeton, W. Va., entering the dry goods and clothing business. In 1959, he was still resident in Princeton, engaged in the same business, together with his son, Yankee [Jacob] Barbakow.

In addition to the above information, excerpted in part from letters written to me by Harry Barbakow (from 1956 to 1959), who was a very staunch member of my old Bluefield-Princeton Congregation Ahavath Sholom (1947–1950), I was most fortunate in receiving four additional letters dealing with the earlier and present Jewish residents of Marlinton, from which most of the following data have been excerpted. These letters were from:

Summers H. Sharp, an attorney (a non-Jew) in Marlinton; the letter is dated July 26, 1956.

Donald [Don] C. Taylor, minister of the Emmanuel Methodist Church, of Huntington, and a former resident in, and native of, Marlinton, who was reared and lived for a number of years in Marlinton. The Reverend Don C. Taylor and I met several times in Buckhannon, W. Va., as well as in Huntington, on the occasion of J. C. S. assignments to me and at Religious Emphasis Week programs and summer camp programs of the Methodist Church of West Virginia in which I participated (1950–1956). His letter is dated July 18, 1956.

Mrs. Paul R. Overholt, of Buckeye, W. Va., formerly of Marlinton, and the daughter of Paul Golden. Her letter is dated August 8, 1956.

Adolph E. (Edward) Cooper, a Marlinton attorney. His letter is dated August 3, 1956.

The last three mentioned letters contain so many valuable data about Jews of Marlinton, and provide such fine human-interest stories, that they are herewith cited virtually in toto.

[From the Reverend Donald C. Taylor]

"Huntington, West Virginia.
"July 18, 1956.

. . . . Regarding the Jewish families of Marlinton, . . . there is now only one family residing there that is strictly Jewish. That is the Cooper family. The head of the family, Adolph E. Cooper, is an attorney in Marlinton. He is quite active in the Republican Party on a county basis. I believe that he is the city attorney. He was raised, I believe, at Cass, West Virginia. Mrs. Cooper is a very devout person. . . . I believe that her family is in Baltimore, and that she has some connection with a synagogue there. The Coopers have two children: Doris Ella Cooper, who is now in college; and Daniel Cooper, who is a senior at Marlinton High School.

Mrs. Paul Overholt lives in [near] Marlinton. [She is the daughter of the late Paul Golden.] She was raised as a Jewess. At the present time she attends the Episcopalian Church. I am not sure that she has been confirmed as a member. Her husband is a member of the Methodist Church in Marlinton. [The maiden name of Mrs. Paul Overholt was Mary Frances Golden; she was nicknamed and is commonly called "Fannie."] One daughter in the family [of Paul and "Fannie" Overholt] is a Unitarian. . . .

Several years ago there were three other Jewish families in Marlinton. I knew them slightly. The Kleins (originally residents of Baltimore) were merchants there [in Marlinton] in 1932. A family named Schuchat owned a store there, and sold out to the Kleins. [The Schuchat family of Marlinton was related to the family of Louis Schuchat, of Lewisburg, and to that, also, of Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat.] I believe that the

Schuchan left Marlinton during the summer of 1931. I am not sure where they went. The only name of any of the Kleins that I remember is that of Anita Klein. She graduated from high school with me [in Marlinton] in 1932. I am not sure when the Kleins left Marlinton. I am inclined to believe that they returned to Baltimore.

The third family which I remember was named Kelmenson. The name of the head of the family was written H. [Herman] Kelmenson. I knew a son [of Herman Kelmenson] quite well, from being in high school with him. He was named Harry Kelmenson. I understand that Harry Kelmenson is now a prominent surgeon in Baltimore, Maryland. There was one daughter in the Kelmenson family; she was older than Harry, but I do not remember her name. . . . I do not remember when the Kelmensons moved away from Marlinton. I believe that it was in the middle 1930's — about 1935 or 1936.

[From Mrs. Paul R. (Mary Frances Golden] Overholt, of Buckeye, W. Va., under date of August 8, 1956]

" 'Balla Machree'
"R. F. D. 1,
"Buckeye, W. Va.

. . . . My mother, Minna Milner, came from Lithuania, near Propst. Her father was a miller. The village in which she lived was on a river much like the Greenbrier. She was very pious, but failed to instruct me in the Jewish precepts. This was the case in [with] many of the earlier Jewish settlers who had to work so hard that they neglected this step, although [the proverb or saying] "Born a Jew, always a Jew" seems to be bred in the bone. The early merchants here had to board their clerks [provide them with room and meals], so that made extra work.

Besides running a general merchandise store, my father [Paul Golden] and H. [Herman] Kelmenson bought wool and ginseng.

I hope that you may be able to garner a few facts of interest from my [the following] ramblings. I had hoped to rewrite the enclosed rambling account and have it typed. However, after six weeks of guests, the work in my garden makes this impossible.

" 'Fannie' Overholt (Mary Frances Golden Overholt)."

Judge [Summers H.] Sharp asked me to answer your letter, as he felt that I knew more about my father [Paul Golden]. Papa was a very colorful figure. He was about 5½ feet tall, with merry blue eyes and

light brown hair. He always had a small gift for the children when they came to his store; so many of them always tell me about him. He loved to eat, and always planned to spend the night when he was traveling where they had a good cook. He always stopped at Judge Sharp's home [before he settled in Marlinton], and they were always good friends.

His home [native country and village] was near the Phriphet [Pripet] Marshes in what is now Poland but [was] under Russian rule at that time. His father, who was a bookkeeper for a well-to-do relative in a nearby city (Riga?), was killed at the beginning of a pogrom when he rushed back to [into] the store to get the books, although his relative had begged him not to. He [my father, Paul Golden] borrowed the money from some relative to come to America, and then sent money back for the various members of his family to come [to the United States].

He was always interested in education and the welfare of this community [Marlinton, W. Va.]. At his death, in 1944, we sent his library of many of the classics to a synagogue in Baltimore.

Paul Golden [my father] was born in Russia, near the Phriphet [Pripet] Marshes, and came to America between 1885 and 1888. He began in business as a peddler in West Virginia. He bought his merchandise from the Baltimore Bargain House, and after coming to Pocahontas County [in West Virginia] [he] had it shipped to Millton Springs, Va., where it was brought over the mountains to the store which he [later] had in Edray [West Virginia]. Previously to this he had carried his merchandise in a huge sack on his back. He must have been very strong, as the country people marveled at what he could get in this sack. Mrs. Elmer Poague [Pogue] said that they could always depend on what he said about his merchandise. If he said it was good, it was fine, and if he said it was just "fair," it was that. He had a gray horse and wagon when he became more prosperous. After he came to Edray, a village a few miles from Marlinton, he let a cousin, "Red" Golden, do the peddling. (The horse and buggy were lost in an accident.) This cousin, an E. Golden, was a smaller man with red hair and a long, red beard. The Elmer Pogues, in whose yard his little store stood, and with whom he boarded, tell of the terrible quarrel he had with "Red." It seems that one Passover the matzoh did not come from Baltimore, so he had their cook [the Elmer Pogues' cook] make it of flour, salt, and water. The cousin, a very religious man and in poor health, ate it, but decided it wasn't right a few days later, and was most indignant.

He [Paul Golden] moved to Marlinton about 1894 or 1895. Then he married my mother in Baltimore. This store was near the old, wooden, covered bridge built over the Greenbrier River during the Civil War.

About 1899 he moved across the bridge to a large building, where he stayed in business until 1919. My mother's nephews, Simon Klein (deceased) and Maurice Klein (now owner of a big general merchandise store similar to my father's in Forest Hill, Md.), worked for him at various times [in Marlinton]. His sister, Ida Golden Fuman, her husband, and two children ran a prosperous store for him in Falling Springs, now Renick, in Greenbrier County [West Virginia], for several years. Her husband, John [Fuman], was very anxious to go to a larger place, so [he] moved to Indiana and then to Chicago and Baltimore, but [he] never had any more money than in West Virginia.

Papa helped my mother's sister Mary [Mary Milner], and her husband, Abe Harrison, establish a store in Marlinton about 1903. Abe [Harrison] was an excellent businessman, and sold his store to Louis Klein. He [Abe Harrison] went to Fairmont, W. Va., where he made his fortune in a huge store dedicated to the workingman. This store was leased to some men by the name of Golden Brothers [presumably not related to Paul Golden] when he retired to Atlantic City [N. J.]. He [Abe Harrison] operated a store in Cumberland, Md., for a few years, hoping to get his three sons established there, but his health was poor there, so he went back to Atlantic City. He died there at the age of 79 in 1954. I wrote to his oldest son, Bernard [Harrison], of 4601 Ventnor Ave. [Atlantic City, N. J.], for information, but have not received it.

My father always was fascinated by the lumber business, so when he sold his store out, he indulged in this and lost much of his hard-earned cash. However, the land on which he cut the most lumber was valuable farmland, and helped him to recuperate his fortune a little. At the age of 75 he started on the road again, in a Ford [automobile] this time, as a jobber for work clothes and gloves. He traveled all over southern West Virginia and enjoyed this work very much. It gave him an outlet for his urge to wander as in his younger days, and gave him a chance to earn.

He gave me seven years in a boarding school and college. My mother left money for my elder daughter to graduate from Columbia [University], and the younger from Cornell, so his love for learning was not lost.

He and my mother are buried in the Southern Cemetery in Baltimore, Md.

He announced his intentions to become naturalized in Baltimore in 1890, and became a citizen in Pocahontas County [West Virginia] in 1897.

" 'Fannie' Overholt (Mary Frances Golden Overholt)."

[Letter from A. E. (Adolph Edward) Cooper, of Marlinton, dated August 3, 1956]

"A. E. [Adolph Edward] Cooper,
"Attorney at Law,
"Marlinton, W. Va.
"August 3, 1956.

This is in reply to your letter requesting information about myself, family, and other former Jewish families who lived here in the [Pocahontas] county, and especially at Marlinton.

My father was Jacob Cooper. My mother was Maggie Gordon Cooper. They came to Cass, West Virginia, in this county, around 1905. Dad was a merchant, operating the Cooper's Department Store at Cass. We were the only Jewish family in Cass. My father was a most respected citizen. He was a member of the Town Council at Cass. He was a member of the Masonic Order at Cass, [the Lodge in Cass] being Riverside Lodge No. 124. When Dad came to Cass there were three children, namely, Veeda, Leon, and Theodore [Cooper]. Then I was born on June 7th, 1906. Lewis [Cooper, my brother] was born on July 20th, 1907. All [the] children graduated at [from] Marlinton High School. Marlinton is 25 miles from Cass by rail. The children had to board away from home while going to school. Dad moved his store from Cass to Durbin, West Virginia, in 1930, and continued in business for a couple of years and left this county in 1932, returning to Washington, D. C. He came from Washington to West Virginia in 1905. Dad died in 1943 in Washington, D. C., on July 4th, and is buried in Adas Israel Cemetery. He was aged 69. Mother died August 25th, 1947, and is also buried in the same cemetery. Her maiden name was Gordon, and her father was a rabbi, as I recall, in Russia. Both my parents originally came from Russia, and [my] father became a naturalized citizen prior to his coming to West Virginia. My mother was a very well-read person, and [was] well liked by all who came in contact with her.

My sister, Veeda [Cooper], died in 1928, and is buried in the same cemetery in Washington. She was a talented pianist, and was most popular. She was the oldest of the children [of Jacob and Maggie Gordon Cooper].

Leon [Cooper] is the oldest boy, and is living in Washington, D. C. He is connected with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, He is married, and has one child, named Barbara. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Cass.

Theodore Cooper is a doctor, having his office in Baltimore, Md. He graduated [from] West Virginia University [in Morgantown] and

Yale Medical School. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Cass. Theodore Cooper is married, and has two children: Vicki, a daughter, and Edward. Vicki is married, and lives in Baltimore. Theodore built a beautiful home at Pikesville, Md. He is next to Leon in age. Theodore Cooper is also a Phi Beta Kappa from West Virginia University.

I [ADOLPH EDWARD COOPER] am the next boy, born on June 7, 1906 [at Cass, W. Va.]. I graduated [from] West Virginia Law School in 1929, with the LL.B. degree. [I] graduated on June 8th [1929], and started practice on July 8th [1929], in Marlinton, W. Va. [I am a] member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity, a national one. . . . I have been City Attorney in Marlinton since 1941, and perhaps a year or two before that. While at West Virginia University I was a member of the varsity wrestling team in the 118-pound class, for the five years there, and a member of the West Virginia Club for athletes, called the Varsity Club, I believe. I am a member of the Masonic Order at Cass. I am a member of the Marlinton Rotary Club, and Past President on two separate occasions. I became a member one month after the Club was organized in 1937. I was a president of the Pocahontas County Board of Trade for one year. . . . I am a Republican, and ran for the office of Prosecuting Attorney of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, for three times. This was in 1932, 1936, and 1940. [It was] a bad time for a Republican to run. I am at present Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Pocahontas County, having been elected a member at the primary, and chosen Chairman by the Committee. I was elected a Member from Edray District of this county.

I am married, and the father of two children. I was married on December 24, 1933, in New York. My wife was formerly Diana Kronick. She was born in New York, but her folks were living at Uniontown, Pa., when I was attending school at Morgantown at the University of West Virginia. We met at the fraternity on the campus at West Virginia University.

DORIS ELLA COOPER is my elder [child]. She is a graduate of Marlinton High School in 1954. She is now [1956] a junior at the University of Maryland. She is a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority at the University of Maryland. She made the Dean's List this past school year. She was born [in Marlinton] on October 1, 1936.

DANIEL PAUL COOPER is my son. He was born on April 23, 1940. He is a sophomore in Marlinton High School, and a member of the baseball and football teams. He is the only Jewish student in the [Marlinton] High School at this time.

We [the Adolph E. Cooper family] are the only Jewish family living in Pocahontas County at this time [1956].

Now some information as to other Jewish families:

PAUL GOLDEN. Paul Golden came to Marlinton in 1892.[1] He was a merchant, and died here in 1944 at the age of 86. His wife was Minnie Milner Golden, who died in 1948, at the age of 80 years.

ABE HARRISON. Abe Harrison was in business in Marlinton, about the year 1905. He went from Marlinton to Fairmont, W. Va., some time around 1905, and opened up the "Workingman's Store." Later, he leased this store of his to a firm known as Golden Brothers, in Fairmont, while he himself moved to Atlantic City, N. J. Abe Harrison was the brother-in-law of Paul Golden. He sold his business in Marlinton to Louis Klein, of Baltimore. Mr. [Abe] Harrison died in Atlantic City in 1954, at the age of 79, and at the time he was in the real estate business.

SCHULMAN BROTHERS. The Schulman Brothers were here in business during the period from 1910 to 1920. One of the brothers was Max Schulman. One of them is still living. They went from Marlinton to Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

ISAAC ROSEN. Isaac Rosen was here in business in the early 1920's. His wife was a relative of the Schulmans.

H. [ERMAN] KELMENSON. H.[erman] Kelmenson and his family were in Marlinton for years. He was married, and had two children. Edith Kelmenson, his daughter, was married, and died in Baltimore. A son, Harry Kelmenson, is a doctor, located in Baltimore; he is married, and has a family of his own. Mr. and Mrs. H.[erman] Kelmenson are living in Baltimore, Md. Mr. [Herman] Kelmenson operated a store in Marlinton for many years.

SIMON SHUCHAT [SCHUCHAT].[2] Simon Shuchat and his family lived here at Marlinton for years. He operated a fine store here. His wife was Sarah [Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat; *see below*.] She lives in Baltimore. . . . They have some children living in Baltimore.

[*See below*, for the letter of Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat on Marlinton and the Simon Schuchat family.]

LOUIS SHUCHAT [SCHUCHAT]. Louis Schuchat was also in Marlinton, but he is now, and has been for many years, located at Lewisburg, W. Va. . . . [Louis Schuchat operated a store in Lewisburg for many years, until his retirement from business in the 1950's. He was the brother of Simon Schuchat.]

LOUIS KLEIN. Louis Klein was succeeded [in business] by the Shuchats [Schuchats], and then they in turn by Abe Klein. Abe Klein was in business here for a few years. A fire destroyed the property. He had a daughter named Anita Klein, and a son, Millard Klein. They are now in Baltimore, I believe.

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[1] In 1894 or 1895, according to Paul Golden's daughter, Mrs. Paul R. Overholt; *see above*, page 1013.

[2] The correct spelling of this name is Schuchat.

Al. Scheir. Al Scheir and his wife, Sylvia, were in business in Marlinton from 1930 to 1932, inclusive. They now live in Baltimore, Md. Sylvia Scheir is now Mrs. Sam Ross, of Baltimore. Both have remarried since leaving Marlinton, after a divorce proceeding.

Mrs. Fannie Overholt. Mrs. Fannie [Mary Frances Golden Overholt; "Fannie" is a familiar name for Frances, no doubt] Overholt, the wife of Paul R. Overholt, lives near Marlinton, in this County [in Buckeye, W. Va.]. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Golden. She is married to a Methodist, and they have two children. . . .

We are constructing a golf course in this County, near Marlinton, and have formed a corporation for that purpose. The corporation is called the Pocahontas County Country Club, and I am president. This is only another point of interest, in view of the fact that we are the only Jews here [the Adolph E. Cooper family].

Lewis Cooper. I overlooked my youngest brother, Lewis Cooper. He was born [in Cass, W. Va.] on July 20, 1907. A graduate of West Virginia University, he served in the United States Navy. Now married, he is living in Washington, D. C., and has three sons. He was with Hecht's Department Store [in Washington, D. C.] for a few years, and is now with the Sun Radio Stores. He was in every State in this country, and has toured Europe.

Jacob Cooper. My father, Jacob Cooper, was a great man. He believed in education. Three of us boys were at West Virginia University at one time. Our mother and father gave us the best of everything at considerable sacrifice. We were the only Jewish family at Cass.

My full name is Adolph Edward Cooper.

"A. E. Cooper."

Memoir of Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat[1] on Marlinton, West Virginia and on Her Late Husband Simon Schuchat, of Marlinton, West Virginia[2]

Memoir of Mrs. Sara (Simon) Schuchat Marlinton, West Virginia

I am sorry not to have sent you the below background before now, but it is the kind of thing one wants to set down all at once, and a sufficient stretch of time has been lacking.

[1] (of 3413 Glen Avenue, Baltimore 15, Maryland).

[2] Written by Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat on February 12, 1958, and on January 22, 1959, in the form of two letters to Abraham I. Shinedling. The bracketed insertions are by the latter.

Simon Schuchat was born in Kovna [Kovno], Lithuania, about 1878, and came to Baltimore with his parents and four sisters and brothers in 1884. Two more children were born in Baltimore. He owned a cigar factory in Baltimore until after we were married, on February 28, 1915, at Baltimore. In 1916 we moved to Marlinton, at which time Simon Schuchat bought Klein's Department Store in Marlinton from my uncle, Louis Klein. We moved back to Baltimore, from Marlinton, in 1930. On his side of the family, only my husband, and his brother Louis Schuchat, had any connection with West Virginia. [Louis Schuchat, later of Lewisburg, W. Va., is the father-in-law of Rabbi Ely E. Pilchik, of Newark, N. J., Rabbi Pilchik having married Louis Schuchat's daughter Ruth.] Louis Schuchat married Mary Aaron, of Bluefield [Mary Aaron would be an aunt of Mrs. Sarah Aaron Schlossberg (Mrs. Abraham N. Schlossberg), of Bluefield], and Mrs. [Louis] Schuchat should be able to supply you with a wealth of information about Lewisburg and Bluefield. Their address is just Lewisburg, W. Va., but they spend the winter at Coral Gables, Florida.

I was born Sara Schwartz, one of seven children, in Boydton, Virginia. Although my parents, Jacob Schwartz and Minna Klein Schwartz, came to Baltimore and returned there before we children were all grown, they lived in the interval in several towns on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, also in Boydton, Va., where my sister Bessie and I were both born, and also briefly in North Carolina. They owned stores in these places. My parents spent their later years in Baltimore, and died there. For a short period of time, Jacob and Minna Klein Schwartz lived also in Grafton, W. Va. We lived in Grafton, [West Virginia,] for a time when I was very young.

We moved to Baltimore, where I started school. My brother Aaron [Schwartz] attended D & E [Davis and Elkins College, in Elkins, W. Va.], and played football there (against Navy!). At the time he lived with my Uncle Abe Klein (my mother's brother), who had a store in Elkins. Uncle Abe Klein, a brother of Louis Klein, had moved to Elkins from Grafton, West Virginia. Ephraim Klein, my mother's oldest brother, was in Grafton, West Virginia, for sixty years or more, and had a department store. He married and died there. His daughter, Ray Klein, is a resident buyer in New York City; his daughter, Flora Klein Freedman, lives in Youngstown, Ohio; and his son, Harry Klein, is in Minneapolis.

My Uncle Ike (I. Charles Klein) lived for a long time in Weston, W. Va., where he had a department store. His son died quite young. Three of his daughters live in New York and one in Princeton, New Jersey.

My mother, Minna Klein, was born in Travich [Tavrick], near Tilsit [Russia], about the year 1856 or 1857, and my father, Jacob

Schwartz, was born in Neistadt, Lithuania, which was then a part of Russia, also about 1836 or 1837. Both towns were in Kovno Gubierna. They came to the United States in 1888 [1878?], after their marriage in Neistadt. At the time of their arrival they were on their honeymoon, and when they came to Baltimore on their honeymoon, they were about twenty-two years old. My Aunt Celia Klein married Alex [Alexander] Lazarus of Belington, W. Va., and they had two girls and five boys: Louis, Morris, Isaac, Jack, Ephraim, Goldie, and Lena Lazarus. Louis Lazarus lives in Wheeling, Morris Lazarus lived there until his death a few years ago [at Wheeling]. Jack Lazarus is a dentist in Baltimore, and Ephraim Lazarus, who taught high school in Belington for many years, now lives in Baltimore, as do the two girls, the former Goldie and Lena Lazarus, all of them now married. Ephraim Lazarus, after leaving Belington, became an office manager in Baltimore; he is still working in that position in Baltimore.

Louis Klein (to get back to my mother's brothers) lived in Weston and then came to Marlinton, and bought A. [Abraham] Harrison's store, which became Klein's Department Store. I lived with his family from the time I was sixteen until I was twenty. They were there [Louis Klein and his wife] eight years in all before my husband bought the store, at which time they moved to Washington. My Uncle Abe Klein was at first a salesman for the United Rubber Company before he settled in Elkins, W. Va. He went to Elkins when he was quite young, opened a store there and married and had three children. Later he was in the department store business in Clarksburg, W. Va., with the Nusbaum Company. His last store was in Fairmont, W. Va. Abe Klein's three children were Anita, Dorothy, and Millard Klein. Anita Klein is married in Baltimore, Dorothy Klein is in Washington, as are Millard Klein and his wife and two children. The Kleins, as you can see, were early settlers in West Virginia.

Schuchat's Department Store (my husband, Simon Schuchat, changed the name when he bought the store) sold ready-to-wear [clothing] for the whole family. Our customers came from the area about fifty miles around Marlinton. The roads were not as good as they are now, and a whole family, lumbermen or farmers, would come to Marlinton for a day of shopping. We did a lot of advertising, including a monthly magazine, and while we were in Marlinton we doubled the size of the store. We lived in an eight-room apartment over it.

After World War I Mr. [Simon] Schuchat contributed and raised funds for the Jews in Europe throughout the whole of Pocahontas County [West Virginia]. Although there were only five Jewish families in the County (and we called them four and a half because one man did not want to have any part of anything like that [of Judaism and Jewish affiliation, and of being known as a Jew, and of contributing

money for Jewish causes], we raised a great deal of money (it's all in the book *This Thing Called Giving*, I believe the name is), because we had all of our Christian friends contributing and raising money. We had a real fund drive, with meetings at our house. Mr. Schuchat was one of the Directors of The Bank of Marlinton. When we came there, the town had electricity only at night, and Mr. Schuchat was instrumental in floating a bond [issue] to buy a second dynamo for daylight current. He was very active in the Kiwanis Club. And he was a very active Democrat — when there were very few Democrats of any kind in that area. His political interests did not affect his close friendship with such good Republicans as Judge Summer [Summers H.] Sharp or his brother George Sharp (mentioned below).

When the Presbyterian and Methodist Sunday schools studied the Old Testament, Mr. Schuchat was always asked to speak to the children. He also spoke at morning chapel at the high schools. He used to have long conversations in Hebrew [?] with the Reverend George J. Cleveland, then the minister of the Episcopal Church, later canon at the Washington [D. C.] Cathedral, and now in Richmond, Virginia. We always attended the Thanksgiving [Day] service at one of the churches [in Marlinton] and went to them on other occasions.

I was one of the charter members of the Women's Club of Marlinton, whose membership was strictly limited to 24 and was by invitation only. (I was the only Jewish member — and usually the only Jewish delegate at State Women's Clubs' Conventions.)

Before we moved to Marlinton, Mr. [Simon] Schuchat learned [in Baltimore] to be a shochet, so that we could have kosher fowl in West Virginia. We had a kosher home, and at Pesach ate only meat because we could not get pesachdich [fit for Passover use] dairy products. We always had seders, and the other Jewish families of Marlinton were invited. On the high holy days, even though there were not enough Jews for a Minyan, we held services at our home.

[I would have imagined, or surmised, on the basis of etymology and "logic," that the implication is rather clear that the family name of her husband, Simon *Schuchat*, is derived from the Hebrew word *shochet*, which means a ritual slaughterer of poultry and animals, and that the spelling *Schuchat* represents a variant of that name or title. It is very likely that, just as Simon Schuchat learned, in Baltimore, to be a Shochet, some one of his ancestors, or several of them, possibly his father and his grandfather in the "Old Country," had learned to be, and had been, Shochetim in Lithuania, many years before Simon Schuchat's and his parents' emigration to the United States, and that it was from this occupation that the family name of Schuchat, with a slight dialectical accent, and with a slight variant spelling of the name, was adopted, perhaps as far back as two or three generations, even before Simon Schuchat's grandfather's time.

[However, my surmise, or conjecture, as to the "origin" of the name Schuchat was incorrect, according to the following statement in this respect made by Mrs. Sara S. Schuchat, in reply to my query, in her second long and detailed letter, that of January 22, 1959:]

As far as I know, the Schuchat family in Lithuania consisted of five cantors (brothers). [These five brothers were the grandfather and the four granduncles of Simon Schuchat.] We have heard that one of these cantors went to Italy, where some of his descendants live in Rome. My husband's father [David Schuchat] (the son of one of the five brothers), who made his living here [in the United States] as a cabinetmaker, came to Baltimore. My husband learned to be a Shochet only so that we might have [kosher] meat in Marlinton. He studied [Shechitah] (if this is the term) briefly in Baltimore after our marriage (1915–1916), but before we went to West Virginia (in 1916), and only enough so that he could perform ritual slaughtering for his own family. He did, however, kill chickens for the other [Jewish] families [in Marlinton] for holydays.

My husband, Simon Schuchat, went to Cheder [the five-day-a-week Hebrew day school] in Baltimore. His parents were observant Jews, and the combination gave him his religious background. His father, David Schuchat, was a founder of Beth Tefilah Congregation [in Baltimore]. As far as I know, the name has always been spelled Schuchat in English, with the two *c*'s. As I wrote above, the name far [long] preceded my husband's becoming a Shochet.

Our daughter Betsy [Schuchat] was born on June 3, 1918, and our first son, Theodor [Schuchat], on June 15, 1923. Both of them were born in Baltimore, and Theodor was the first male Schuchat in a long, long time.

[Our son] Michael [Schuchat] was born on December 15, 1924, in Marlinton. The Mohel was brought from Baltimore, and all of our Gentil[e] as well as Jewish friends were invited to what I believe was the first Brith [circumcision ceremony] ever held in Marlinton.

[Our son] David George [Schuchat] was born at Marlinton on June 16, 1930, and the Mohel was brought from Charleston by Secretary of State [of West Virginia] George W. Sharp, who came down with him and insisted that David also be named George because he had brought the Mohel!

We lived in Marlinton for fourteen years (until 1930), and then we sold the store and returned to Baltimore. We had always planned to go back [to Baltimore] when the boys were ready for Hebrew School. While we lived in Marlinton we would buy Hebrew books from the Block [Bloch] Publishing Company [of New York] when we went on buying trips to New York, and when we returned to Baltimore Betsy was able to enter Sunday School in her correct grade. The boys went to Beth Tefiloh [Tefilah] Hebrew School in Baltimore, and we joined

that congregation. Mr. Schuchat's father [David Schuchat] had been one of the early members, and Mr. [Simon] Schuchat was active as a member of the Board of Beth Tefiloh Congregation until his death at Baltimore in October, 1945. As long as our children attended Hebrew School, I was an active member of the Board of it.

Betsy [Schuchat] went to West Virginia University and graduated in 1939. While there she was president of the Sigma Delta Tau sorority. She received a master's degree in social work at Tulane University, in New Orleans, and in 1946 she married Jerry Schoenholtz, a business agent for the ILGWU [International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union]. They live in New York, and she is currently Directress of Social Services of the French Hospital.

[Theodor] Schuchat, the eldest son of Simon and Sara S. Schuchat, attended West Virginia University until he went into the Army Signal Corps in 1942. He graduated from the New School for Social Research in New York after the [Second World] War, and was an information specialist with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare until he became the executive director of the Social Legislation Information Service, in Washington, D. C. On December 27, 1958, Theodor Schuchat was married to Bertha Moscov, of Washington, D. C.

Michael [Schuchat] began college at Carnegie Tech [the Carnegie Institute of Technology], in Pittsburgh, and then joined the Naval ROTC. He graduated from Yale University in the class of [19]45W, and then served as an ensign on a destroyer in the Pacific. After graduating from Georgetown Law School, he clerked for Judge Charles Fahey, of the United States Court of Appeals in Washington. He was recalled during the Korean War and served in the Caribbean and in North Africa. He is a member of the law firm of Geiger, Harmel and Schuchat. He married Mollie Geiger, of the District of Columbia, in 1953, and has three children, Simon, Frank, and Betty Schuchat. [Michael Schuchat's older son, Simon Schuchat, would thus appear to have been named after his grandfather, the original Simon Schuchat who was the husband of Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat.]

David [David George Schuchat] attended West Virginia University, George Washington University, and Johns Hopkins University. He served in the Quartermaster Corps of the Army in Munich. He owns a tea company in Baltimore, and is engaged in real estate in Washington and Baltimore. He lives with me at 3413 Glen Avenue (please note the new address), Baltimore 15, Md.

We all have close ties to Marlinton. We go back as often as we can, and I still subscribe to the *Pocahontas Times* (a weekly), founded by the Price Family. The newspaper still publishes news of marriages and births in my family. Marlinton was a very liberal place to live for a Jew, and people were accepted for what they were. . . .

P.S. I have a poem composed on October 20, 1930, by the late Dr. James Madison Price to us, on our leaving Marlinton. I shall send you a copy. I think it is very good. . . .

"Mrs. Sara [Schwartz] Schuchat (Mrs. Simon Schuchat),
"3413 Glen Avenue,
Baltimore 15, Md."

"FRIENDS AND FLOWERS"

In Wyllie Manor's merry mansion halls,
Glad meetings (with the partings of regret),
Soft music, and softer footstep falls
In measures of grand, stately minuet.

Friends losing the old days and ways,
We can not know or show a reason why,
Hoping for them to stay with us always,
And never, the forever, last good bye.

The year our flowers lost the summer showers,
We could not keep them so they would not fade,
Too soon the roses were a sombre shade
Yet memories of their fragrance still are ours.

Some flowers' leaves are of the evergreen,
The leaf that keeps the verdure ever new
In summer, and our autumn hours, too,
As waving over water ways they lean.

October 20, 1930 J.[ames] M.[adison] Price

Banquet of farewell in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Schuchat.

MARMET

Marmet is a town in Kanawha County, in west central West Virginia, located on the Kanawha River, eight miles south southeast of Charleston. It was incorporated in 1921. In 1950 it had a general population of 2,515 (1950 United States Census).

No Jews were living in Marmet in 1958–1959, and, apparently, no Jewish families or persons ever resided in the town. This was, without doubt, because of its proximity to Charleston, where Jewish persons preferred to settle and to work.

MARTINSBURG

GENERAL

Martinsburg is an industrial city in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, in the northeastern part of the state. It is situated at an altitude of 435 feet above sea level, 17 miles south southwest of Hagerstown, Md., and 70 miles northwest of Washington, D. C. Martinsburg is the county seat of Berkeley County.

Martinsburg was first settled in 1774 to 1776, and was chartered as a village [or as a town, as some historians believe] in 1778, then later as a town, and still later, in 1859, as a city. In 1940, it was reported (United States Census) to have a population of 15,063. In 1955, its population was given as 15,600. The United States Census of 1950 gave Martinsburg a general population of 15,621.

Martinsburg is noted for its manufacture of textiles (especially woollens), hosiery, furniture, cement, wood products, and bricks. Large deposits of shale, limestone, and clay are to be found in its immediate vicinity, and are utilized. It is, in addition to being an industrial city, also a commercial and livestock center, and also a center for agriculture. It is located in an apple- and peach-growing center, and it produces and ships these fruits and also byproducts of the livestock industry. Martinsburg's location is at the entrance to the Shenandoah Valley. The city is served by both the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; the latter maintains a large repair shop in Martinsburg.

During the Civil War, Martinsburg was occupied, successively, by Federal and Confederate armies. It derives its name from Colonel Thomas Bryan Martin, and was laid out, originally, as a village, by General Adam Stephen.

Bunker Hill Village, ten miles to the southwest of Martinsburg, is the site of the oldest recorded settlement in all West Virginia. Bunker Hill Village was settled about the year 1729.

THEODOR SCHUCHAT

11015 SE Lake Road
Bellevue WA 98004-7557
Voice (425) 454-1929
Fax (206) 726-7898
Email tedschuchat@mymailstation.com

June 16, 2001

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Your circular letter of June 5 prompted me to send you the Xeroxed material enclosed, an account of the Jews who lived in Marlinton during the first half of the Twentieth Century.

As Charlene Beverage will confirm, I have been dispersing my personal library. If I come across any more Pocahontas County material, I'll send it along.

Cordially yours,

Ted

Mr. Allen Johnson, Director
Pocahontas County Free Libraries
McClintic Public Library
Marlinton WV24954

WEST VIRGINIA JEWRY:

ORIGINS AND HISTORY

1850—1958

By

ABRAHAM I. SHINEDLING

Volume II

1963

MARLINTON

Marlinton is a town in east central West Virginia, located in Pocahontas County. It is the county seat of Pocahontas County, and is known as a hunting resort. Marlinton, situated southeast of Webster Springs and east of Richwood, had, in 1937, a general population of 1,586. In 1940, it was reported to have a total general population of 1,644; and in 1950, the United States Census gave the town a general population of 1,654.

The *AJYB* for 1927 reported that there were 11 Jews living in Marlinton in 1927, and in 1937 there were ten Jews or less residing in the town.

Several years after 1922, Harry Barbakow, now (1959) living in Princeton, W. Va., and his brother-in-law, Herman Kelmenson, moved from Thomas, W. Va., to Marlinton, where they opened up a dry goods and clothing store in partnership. Later, Harry Barbakow sold out his share in the store to Herman Kelmenson, who remained in Marlinton; while Harry Barbakow settled in Princeton, W. Va., entering the dry goods and clothing business. In 1959, he was still resident in Princeton, engaged in the same business, together with his son, Yankee [Jacob] Barbakow.

In addition to the above information, excerpted in part from letters written to me by Harry Barbakow (from 1956 to 1959), who was a very staunch member of my old Bluefield-Princeton Congregation Ahavath Sholom (1947–1950), I was most fortunate in receiving four additional letters dealing with the earlier and present Jewish residents of Marlinton, from which most of the following data have been excerpted. These letters were from:

Summers H. Sharp, an attorney (a non-Jew) in Marlinton; the letter is dated July 26, 1956.

Donald [Don] C. Taylor, minister of the Emmanuel Methodist Church, of Huntington, and a former resident in, and native of, Marlinton, who was reared and lived for a number of years in Marlinton. The Reverend Don C. Taylor and I met several times in Buckhannon, W. Va., as well as in

Huntington, on the occasion of J. C. S. assignments to me and at Religious Emphasis Week programs and summer camp programs of the Methodist Church of West Virginia in which I participated (1950–1956). His letter is dated July 18, 1956.

MRS. PAUL R. OVERHOLT, of Buckeye, W. Va., formerly of Marlinton, and the daughter of Paul Golden. Her letter is dated August 8, 1956.

ADOLPH E. (EDWARD) COOPER, a Marlinton attorney. His letter is dated August 3, 1956.

The last three mentioned letters contain so many valuable data about Jews of Marlinton, and provide such fine human-interest stories, that they are herewith cited virtually in toto.

[From the Reverend Donald C. Taylor]

"Huntington, West Virginia.
"July 18, 1956.

. . . . Regarding the Jewish families of Marlinton, . . . there is now only one family residing there that is strictly Jewish. That is the Cooper family. The head of the family, Adolph E. Cooper, is an attorney in Marlinton. He is quite active in the Republican Party on a county basis. I believe that he is the city attorney. He was raised, I believe, at Cass, West Virginia. Mrs. Cooper is a very devout person. . . . I believe that her family is in Baltimore, and that she has some connection with a synagogue there. The Coopers have two children: Doris Ella Cooper, who is now in college; and Daniel Cooper, who is a senior at Marlinton High School.

Mrs. Paul Overholt lives in [near] Marlinton. [She is the daughter of the late Paul Golden.] She was raised as a Jewess. At the present time she attends the Episcopalian Church. I am not sure that she has been confirmed as a member. Her husband is a member of the Methodist Church in Marlinton. [The maiden name of Mrs. Paul Overholt was Mary Frances Golden; she was nicknamed and is commonly called "Fannie."] One daughter in the family [of Paul and "Fannie" Overholt] is a Unitarian. . . .

Several years ago there were three other Jewish families in Marlinton. I knew them slightly. The Kleins (originally residents of Baltimore) were merchants there [in Marlinton] in 1932. A family named Schuchat owned a store there, and sold out to the Kleins. [The Schuchat family of Marlinton was related to the family of Louis Schuchat, of Lewisburg, and to that, also, of Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat.] I believe that the

Schuchats left Marlinton during the summer of 1931. I am not sure where they went. The only name of any of the Kleins that I remember is that of Anita Klein. She graduated from high school with me [in Marlinton] in 1932. I am not sure when the Kleins left Marlinton. I am inclined to believe that they returned to Baltimore.

The third family which I remember was named Kelmenson. The name of the head of the family was written H. [Herman] Kelmenson. I knew a son [of Herman Kelmenson] quite well, from being in high school with him. He was named Harry Kelmenson. I understand that Harry Kelmenson is now a prominent surgeon in Baltimore, Maryland. There was one daughter in the Kelmenson family; she was older than Harry, but I do not remember her name. . . . I do not remember when the Kelmensons moved away from Marlinton. I believe that it was in the middle 1930's — about 1935 or 1936.

[From Mrs. Paul R. (Mary Frances Golden] Overholt, of Buckeye, W. Va., under date of August 8, 1956]

" 'Balla Machree'
"R. F. D. 1,
"Buckeye, W. Va.

. . . . My mother, Minna Milner, came from Lithuania, near Propst. Her father was a miller. The village in which she lived was on a river much like the Greenbrier. She was very pious, but failed to instruct me in the Jewish precepts. This was the case in [with] many of the earlier Jewish settlers who had to work so hard that they neglected this step, although [the proverb or saying] "Born a Jew, always a Jew" seems to be bred in the bone. The early merchants here had to board their clerks [provide them with room and meals], so that made extra work.

Besides running a general merchandise store, my father [Paul Golden] and H. [Herman] Kelmenson bought wool and ginseng.

I hope that you may be able to garner a few facts of interest from my [the following] ramblings. I had hoped to rewrite the enclosed rambling account and have it typed. However, after six weeks of guests, the work in my garden makes this impossible.

" 'FANNIE' OVERHOLT (Mary Frances Golden Overholt)."

Judge [Summers H.] Sharp asked me to answer your letter, as he felt that I knew more about my father [Paul Golden]. Papa was a very colorful figure. He was about 5½ feet tall, with merry blue eyes and

light brown hair. He always had a small gift for the children when they came to his store; so many of them always tell me about him. He loved to eat, and always planned to spend the night when he was traveling where they had a good cook. He always stopped at Judge Sharp's home [before he settled in Marlinton], and they were always good friends.

His home [native country and village] was near the Phriphet [Pripet] Marshes in what is now Poland but [was] under Russian rule at that time. His father, who was a bookkeeper for a well-to-do relative in a nearby city (Riga?), was killed at the beginning of a pogrom when he rushed back to [into] the store to get the books, although his relative had begged him not to. He [my father, Paul Golden] borrowed the money from some relative to come to America, and then sent money back for the various members of his family to come [to the United States].

He was always interested in education and the welfare of this community [Marlinton, W. Va.]. At his death, in 1944, we sent his library of many of the classics to a synagogue in Baltimore.

Paul Golden [my father] was born in Russia, near the Phriphet [Pripet] Marshes, and came to America between 1885 and 1888. He began in business as a peddler in West Virginia. He bought his merchandise from the Baltimore Bargain House, and after coming to Pocahontas County [in West Virginia] [he] had it shipped to Millton Springs, Va., where it was brought over the mountains to the store which he [later] had in Edray [West Virginia]. Previously to this he had carried his merchandise in a huge sack on his back. He must have been very strong, as the country people marveled at what he could get in this sack. Mrs. Elmer Poague [Pogue] said that they could always depend on what he said about his merchandise. If he said it was good, it was fine, and if he said it was just "fair," it was that. He had a gray horse and wagon when he became more prosperous. After he came to Edray, a village a few miles from Marlinton, he let a cousin, "Red" Golden, do the peddling. (The horse and buggy were lost in an accident.) This cousin, an E. Golden, was a smaller man with red hair and a long, red beard. The Elmer Pogues, in whose yard his little store stood, and with whom he boarded, tell of the terrible quarrel he had with "Red." It seems that one Passover the matzoh did not come from Baltimore, so he had their cook [the Elmer Pogues' cook] make it of flour, salt, and water. The cousin, a very religious man and in poor health, ate it, but decided it wasn't right a few days later, and was most indignant.

He [Paul Golden] moved to Marlinton about 1894 or 1895. Then he married my mother in Baltimore. This store was near the old, wooden, covered bridge built over the Greenbrier River during the Civil War.

About 1899 he moved across the bridge to a large building, where he stayed in business until 1919. My mother's nephews, Simon Klein (deceased) and Maurice Klein (now owner of a big general merchandise store similar to my father's in Forest Hill, Md.), worked for him at various times [in Marlinton]. His sister, Ida Golden Fuman, her husband, and two children ran a prosperous store for him in Falling Springs, now Renick, in Greenbrier County [West Virginia], for several years. Her husband, John [Fuman], was very anxious to go to a larger place, so [he] moved to Indiana and then to Chicago and Baltimore, but [he] never had any more money than in West Virginia.

Papa helped my mother's sister Mary [Mary Milner], and her husband, Abe Harrison, establish a store in Marlinton about 1903. Abe [Harrison] was an excellent businessman, and sold his store to Louis Klein. He [Abe Harrison] went to Fairmont, W. Va., where he made his fortune in a huge store dedicated to the workingman. This store was leased to some men by the name of Golden Brothers [presumably not related to Paul Golden] when he retired to Atlantic City [N. J.]. He [Abe Harrison] operated a store in Cumberland, Md., for a few years, hoping to get his three sons established there, but his health was poor there, so he went back to Atlantic City. He died there at the age of 79 in 1954. I wrote to his oldest son, Bernard [Harrison], of 4601 Ventnor Ave. [Atlantic City, N. J.], for information, but have not received it.

My father always was fascinated by the lumber business, so when he sold his store out, he indulged in this and lost much of his hard-earned cash. However, the land on which he cut the most lumber was valuable farmland, and helped him to recuperate his fortune a little. At the age of 75 he started on the road again, in a Ford [automobile] this time, as a jobber for work clothes and gloves. He traveled all over southern West Virginia and enjoyed this work very much. It gave him an outlet for his urge to wander as in his younger days, and gave him a chance to earn.

He gave me seven years in a boarding school and college. My mother left money for my elder daughter to graduate from Columbia [University], and the younger from Cornell, so his love for learning was not lost.

He and my mother are buried in the Southern Cemetery in Baltimore, Md.

He announced his intentions to become naturalized in Baltimore in 1890, and became a citizen in Pocahontas County [West Virginia] in 1897.

"'Fannie' Overholt (Mary Frances Golden Overholt)."

[Letter from A. E. (Adolph Edward) Cooper, of Marlinton, dated August 3, 1956]

"A. E. [Adolph Edward] Cooper,
"Attorney at Law,
"Marlinton, W. Va.
"August 3, 1956.

This is in reply to your letter requesting information about myself, family, and other former Jewish families who lived here in the [Pocahontas] county, and especially at Marlinton.

My father was Jacob Cooper. My mother was Maggie Gordon Cooper. They came to Cass, West Virginia, in this county, around 1905. Dad was a merchant, operating the Cooper's Department Store at Cass. We were the only Jewish family in Cass. My father was a most respected citizen. He was a member of the Town Council at Cass. He was a member of the Masonic Order at Cass, [the Lodge in Cass] being Riverside Lodge No. 124. When Dad came to Cass there were three children, namely, Veeda, Leon, and Theodore [Cooper]. Then I was born on June 7th, 1906. Lewis [Cooper, my brother] was born on July 20th, 1907. All [the] children graduated at [from] Marlinton High School. Marlinton is 25 miles from Cass by rail. The children had to board away from home while going to school. Dad moved his store from Cass to Durbin, West Virginia, in 1930, and continued in business for a couple of years and left this county in 1932, returning to Washington, D. C. He came from Washington to West Virginia in 1905. Dad died in 1943 in Washington, D. C., on July 4th, and is buried in Adas Israel Cemetery. He was aged 69. Mother died August 25th, 1947, and is also buried in the same cemetery. Her maiden name was Gordon, and her father was a rabbi, as I recall, in Russia. Both my parents originally came from Russia, and [my] father became a naturalized citizen prior to his coming to West Virginia. My mother was a very well-read person, and [was] well liked by all who came in contact with her.

My sister, VEEDA [COOPER], died in 1928, and is buried in the same cemetery in Washington. She was a talented pianist, and was most popular. She was the oldest of the children [of Jacob and Maggie Gordon Cooper].

LEON [COOPER] is the oldest boy, and is living in Washington, D. C. He is connected with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, He is married, and has one child, named Barbara. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Cass.

THEODORE COOPER is a doctor, having his office in Baltimore, Md. He graduated [from] West Virginia University [in Morgantown] and

Yale Medical School. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge at Cass. Theodore Cooper is married, and has two children: Vicki, a daughter, and Edward. Vicki is married, and lives in Baltimore. Theodore built a beautiful home at Pikesville, Md. He is next to Leon in age. Theodore Cooper is also a Phi Beta Kappa from West Virginia University.

I [ADOLPH EDWARD COOPER] am the next boy, born on June 7, 1906 [at Cass, W. Va.]. I graduated [from] West Virginia Law School in 1929, with the LL.B. degree. [I] graduated on June 8th [1929], and started practice on July 8th [1929], in Marlinton, W. Va. [I am a] member of Phi Sigma Delta fraternity, a national one. . . . I have been City Attorney in Marlinton since 1941, and perhaps a year or two before that. While at West Virginia University I was a member of the varsity wrestling team in the 118-pound class, for the five years there, and a member of the West Virginia Club for athletes, called the Varsity Club, I believe. I am a member of the Masonic Order at Cass. I am a member of the Marlinton Rotary Club, and Past President on two separate occasions. I became a member one month after the Club was organized in 1937. I was a president of the Pocahontas County Board of Trade for one year. . . . I am a Republican, and ran for the office of Prosecuting Attorney of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, for three times. This was in 1932, 1936, and 1940. [It was] a bad time for a Republican to run. I am at present Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Pocahontas County, having been elected a member at the primary, and chosen Chairman by the Committee. I was elected a Member from Edray District of this county.

I am married, and the father of two children. I was married on December 24, 1933, in New York. My wife was formerly Diana Kronick. She was born in New York, but her folks were living at Uniontown, Pa., when I was attending school at Morgantown at the University of West Virginia. We met at the fraternity on the campus at West Virginia University.

DORIS ELLA COOPER is my elder [child]. She is a graduate of Marlinton High School in 1954. She is now [1956] a junior at the University of Maryland. She is a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority at the University of Maryland. She made the Dean's List this past school year. She was born [in Marlinton] on October 1, 1936.

DANIEL PAUL COOPER is my son. He was born on April 23, 1940. He is a sophomore in Marlinton High School, and a member of the baseball and football teams. He is the only Jewish student in the [Marlinton] High School at this time.

We [the Adolph E. Cooper family] are the only Jewish family living in Pocahontas County at this time [1956].

Now some information as to other Jewish families:

PAUL GOLDEN. Paul Golden came to Marlinton in 1892.[1] He was a merchant, and died here in 1944 at the age of 86. His wife was Minnie Milner Golden, who died in 1948, at the age of 80 years.

ABE HARRISON. Abe Harrison was in business in Marlinton, about the year 1905. He went from Marlinton to Fairmont, W. Va., some time around 1905, and opened up the "Workingman's Store." Later, he leased this store of his to a firm known as Golden Brothers, in Fairmont, while he himself moved to Atlantic City, N. J. Abe Harrison was the brother-in-law of Paul Golden. He sold his business in Marlinton to Louis Klein, of Baltimore. Mr. [Abe] Harrison died in Atlantic City in 1954, at the age of 79, and at the time he was in the real estate business.

SCHULMAN BROTHERS. The Schulman Brothers were here in business during the period from 1910 to 1920. One of the brothers was Max Schulman. One of them is still living. They went from Marlinton to Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

ISAAC ROSEN. Isaac Rosen was here in business in the early 1920's. His wife was a relative of the Schulmans.

H. [ERMAN] KELMENSON. H.[erman] Kelmenson and his family were in Marlinton for years. He was married, and had two children. Edith Kelmenson, his daughter, was married, and died in Baltimore. A son, Harry Kelmenson, is a doctor, located in Baltimore; he is married, and has a family of his own. Mr. and Mrs. H.[erman] Kelmenson are living in Baltimore, Md. Mr. [Herman] Kelmenson operated a store in Marlinton for many years.

SIMON SHUCHAT [SCHUCHAT].[2] Simon Shuchat and his family lived here at Marlinton for years. He operated a fine store here. His wife was Sarah [Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat; *see below.*] She lives in Baltimore. . . . They have some children living in Baltimore.

[*See below*, for the letter of Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat on Marlinton and the Simon Schuchat family.]

LOUIS SHUCHAT [SCHUCHAT]. Louis Schuchat was also in Marlinton, but he is now, and has been for many years, located at Lewisburg, W. Va. . . . [Louis Schuchat operated a store in Lewisburg for many years, until his retirement from business in the 1950's. He was the brother of Simon Schuchat.]

LOUIS KLEIN. Louis Klein was succeeded [in business] by the Shuchats [Schuchats], and then they in turn by Abe Klein. Abe Klein was in business here for a few years. A fire destroyed the property. He had a daughter named Anita Klein, and a son, Millard Klein. They are now in Baltimore, I believe.

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[1] In 1894 or 1895, according to Paul Golden's daughter, Mrs. Paul R. Overholt; *see above*, page 1013.

[2] The correct spelling of this name is Schuchat.

AL SCHEIR. Al Scheir and his wife, Sylvia, were in business in Marlinton from 1930 to 1932, inclusive. They now live in Baltimore, Md. Sylvia Scheir is now Mrs. Sam Ross, of Baltimore. Both have remarried since leaving Marlinton, after a divorce proceeding.

MRS. FANNIE OVERHOLT. Mrs. Fannie [Mary Frances Golden Overholt; "Fannie" is a familiar name for Frances, no doubt] Overholt, the wife of Paul R. Overholt, lives near Marlinton, in this County [in Buckeye, W. Va.]. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Golden. She is married to a Methodist, and they have two children. . . .

We are constructing a golf course in this County, near Marlinton, and have formed a corporation for that purpose. The corporation is called the Pocahontas County Country Club, and I am president. This is only another point of interest, in view of the fact that we are the only Jews here [the Adolph E. Cooper family].

LEWIS COOPER. I overlooked my youngest brother, Lewis Cooper. He was born [in Cass, W. Va.] on July 20, 1907. A graduate of West Virginia University, he served in the United States Navy. Now married, he is living in Washington, D. C., and has three sons. He was with Hecht's Department Store [in Washington, D. C.] for a few years, and is now with the Sun Radio Stores. He was in every State in this country, and has toured Europe.

JACOB COOPER. My father, Jacob Cooper, was a great man. He believed in education. Three of us boys were at West Virginia University at one time. Our mother and father gave us the best of everything at considerable sacrifice. We were the only Jewish family at Cass.

My full name is Adolph Edward Cooper.

"A. E. COOPER."

MEMOIR OF MRS. SARA SCHWARTZ SCHUCHAT[1] ON MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA AND ON HER LATE HUSBAND SIMON SCHUCHAT, OF MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA[2]

MEMOIR OF MRS. SARA (SIMON) SCHUCHAT MARLINTON, WEST VIRGINIA

I am sorry not to have sent you the below background before now, but it is the kind of thing one wants to set down all at once, and a sufficient stretch of time has been lacking.

---

[1] (of 3413 Glen Avenue, Baltimore 15, Maryland).

[2] Written by Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat on February 12, 1958, and on January 22, 1959, in the form of two letters to Abraham I. Shinedling. The bracketed insertions are by the latter.

SIMON SCHUCHAT was born in Kovna [Kovno], Lithuania, about 1878, and came to Baltimore with his parents and four sisters and brothers in 1884. Two more children were born in Baltimore. He owned a cigar factory in Baltimore until after we were married, on February 28, 1915, at Baltimore. In 1916 we moved to Marlinton, at which time Simon Schuchat bought Klein's Department Store in Marlinton from my uncle, Louis Klein. We moved back to Baltimore, from Marlinton, in 1930. On his side of the family, only my husband, and his brother Louis Schuchat, had any connection with West Virginia. [Louis Schuchat, later of Lewisburg, W. Va., is the father-in-law of Rabbi Ely E. Pilchik, of Newark, N. J., Rabbi Pilchik having married Louis Schuchat's daughter Ruth.] Louis Schuchat married Mary Aaron, of Bluefield [Mary Aaron would be an aunt of Mrs. Sarah Aaron Schlossberg (Mrs. Abraham N. Schlossberg), of Bluefield], and Mrs. [Louis] Schuchat should be able to supply you with a wealth of information about Lewisburg and Bluefield. Their address is just Lewisburg, W. Va., but they spend the winter at Coral Gables, Florida.

I was born SARA SCHWARTZ, one of seven children, in Boydton, Virginia. Although my parents, JACOB SCHWARTZ and MINNA KLEIN SCHWARTZ, came to Baltimore and returned there before we children were all grown, they lived in the interval in several towns on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, also in Boydton, Va., where my sister Bessie and I were both born, and also briefly in North Carolina. They owned stores in these places. My parents spent their later years in Baltimore, and died there. For a short period of time, Jacob and Minna Klein Schwartz lived also in Grafton, W. Va. We lived in Grafton, [West Virginia,] for a time when I was very young.

We moved to Baltimore, where I started school. My brother AARON [SCHWARTZ] attended D & E [Davis and Elkins College, in Elkins, W. Va.], and played football there (against Navy!). At the time he lived with my Uncle ABE KLEIN (my mother's brother), who had a store in Elkins. Uncle Abe Klein, a brother of LOUIS KLEIN, had moved to Elkins from Grafton, West Virginia. EPHRAIM KLEIN, my mother's oldest brother, was in Grafton, West Virginia, for sixty years or more, and had a department store. He married and died there. His daughter, Ray Klein, is a resident buyer in New York City; his daughter, Flora Klein Freedman, lives in Youngstown, Ohio; and his son, Harry Klein, is in Minneapolis.

My Uncle IKE (I. CHARLES KLEIN) lived for a long time in Weston, W. Va., where he had a department store. His son died quite young. Three of his daughters live in New York and one in Princeton, New Jersey.

My mother, MINNA KLEIN, was born in Travich [Tavrick], near Tilsit [Russia], about the year 1856 or 1857, and my father, JACOB

SCHWARTZ, was born in Neistadt, Lithuania, which was then a part of Russia, also about 1856 or 1857. Both towns were in Kovno Gubierna. They came to the United States in 1888 [1878?], after their marriage in Neistadt. At the time of their arrival they were on their honeymoon, and when they came to Baltimore on their honeymoon, they were about twenty-two years old. My Aunt CELIA KLEIN married ALEX [ALEXANDER] LAZARUS of Belington, W. Va., and they had two girls and five boys: Louis, Morris, Isaac, Jack, Ephraim, Goldie, and Lena Lazarus. LOUIS LAZARUS lives in Wheeling, MORRIS LAZARUS lived there until his death a few years ago [at Wheeling]. JACK LAZARUS is a dentist in Baltimore, and EPHRAIM LAZARUS, who taught high school in Belington for many years, now lives in Baltimore, as do the two girls, the former GOLDIE and LENA LAZARUS, all of them now married. Ephraim Lazarus, after leaving Belington, became an office manager in Baltimore; he is still working in that position in Baltimore.

LOUIS KLEIN (to get back to my mother's brothers) lived in Weston and then came to Marlinton, and bought A. [Abraham] Harrison's store, which became Klein's Department Store. I lived with his family from the time I was sixteen until I was twenty. They were there [Louis Klein and his wife] eight years in all before my husband bought the store, at which time they moved to Washington. My Uncle ABE KLEIN was at first a salesman for the United Rubber Company before he settled in Elkins, W. Va. He went to Elkins when he was quite young, opened a store there and married and had three children. Later he was in the department store business in Clarksburg, W. Va., with the Nusbaum Company. His last store was in Fairmont, W. Va. Abe Klein's three children were Anita, Dorothy, and Millard Klein. Anita Klein is married in Baltimore, Dorothy Klein is in Washington, as are Millard Klein and his wife and two children. The Kleins, as you can see, were early settlers in West Virginia.

Schuchat's Department Store (my husband, Simon Schuchat, changed the name when he bought the store) sold ready-to-wear [clothing] for the whole family. Our customers came from the area about fifty miles around Marlinton. The roads were not as good as they are now, and a whole family, lumbermen or farmers, would come to Marlinton for a day of shopping. We did a lot of advertising, including a monthly magazine, and while we were in Marlinton we doubled the size of the store. We lived in an eight-room apartment over it.

After World War I Mr. [Simon] Schuchat contributed and raised funds for the Jews in Europe throughout the whole of Pocahontas County [West Virginia]. Although there were only five Jewish families in the County (and we called them four and a half because one man did not want to have any part of anything like that [of Judaism and Jewish affiliation, and of being known as a Jew, and of contributing

money for Jewish causes], we raised a great deal of money (it's all in the book *This Thing Called Giving*, I believe the name is), because we had all of our Christian friends contributing and raising money. We had a real fund drive, with meetings at our house. Mr. Schuchat was one of the Directors of The Bank of Marlinton. When we came there, the town had electricity only at night, and Mr. Schuchat was instrumental in floating a bond [issue] to buy a second dynamo for daylight current. He was very active in the Kiwanis Club. And he was a very active Democrat — when there were very few Democrats of any kind in that area. His political interests did not affect his close friendship with such good Republicans as Judge Summer [Summers H.] Sharp or his brother George Sharp (mentioned below).

When the Presbyterian and Methodist Sunday schools studied the Old Testament, Mr. Schuchat was always asked to speak to the children. He also spoke at morning chapel at the high schools. He used to have long conversations in Hebrew [?] with the Reverend George J. Cleveland, then the minister of the Episcopal Church, later canon at the Washington [D. C.] Cathedral, and now in Richmond, Virginia. We always attended the Thanksgiving [Day] service at one of the churches [in Marlinton] and went to them on other occasions.

I was one of the charter members of the Women's Club of Marlinton, whose membership was strictly limited to 24 and was by invitation only. (I was the only Jewish member — and usually the only Jewish delegate at State Women's Clubs' Conventions.)

Before we moved to Marlinton, Mr. [Simon] Schuchat learned [in Baltimore] to be a shochet, so that we could have kosher fowl in West Virginia. We had a kosher home, and at Pesach ate only meat because we could not get pesachdich [fit for Passover use] dairy products. We always had seders, and the other Jewish families of Marlinton were invited. On the high holy days, even though there were not enough Jews for a Minyan, we held services at our home.

[I would have imagined, or surmised, on the basis of etymology and "logic," that the implication is rather clear that the family name of her husband, Simon *Schuchat*, is derived from the Hebrew word *shochet*, which means a ritual slaughterer of poultry and animals, and that the spelling *Schuchat* represents a variant of that name or title. It is very likely that, just as Simon Schuchat learned, in Baltimore, to be a Shochet, some one of his ancestors, or several of them, possibly his father and his grandfather in the "Old Country," had learned to be, and had been, Shochetim in Lithuania, many years before Simon Schuchat's and his parents' emigration to the United States, and that it was from this occupation that the family name of Schuchat, with a slight dialectical accent, and with a slight variant spelling of the name, was adopted, perhaps as far back as two or three generations, even before Simon Schuchat's grandfather's time.

[However, my surmise, or conjecture, as to the "origin" of the name Schuchat was incorrect, according to the following statement in this respect made by Mrs. Sara S. Schuchat, in reply to my query, in her second long and detailed letter, that of January 22, 1959:]

As far as I know, the Schuchat family in Lithuania consisted of five cantors (brothers). [These five brothers were the grandfather and the four granduncles of Simon Schuchat.] We have heard that one of these cantors went to Italy, where some of his descendants live in Rome. My husband's father [David Schuchat] (the son of one of the five brothers), who made his living here [in the United States] as a cabinetmaker, came to Baltimore. My husband learned to be a Shochet only so that we might have [kosher] meat in Marlinton. He studied [Shechitah] (if this is the term) briefly in Baltimore after our marriage (1915–1916), but before we went to West Virginia (in 1916), and only enough so that he could perform ritual slaughtering for his own family. He did, however, kill chickens for the other [Jewish] families [in Marlinton] for holydays.

My husband, SIMON SCHUCHAT, went to Cheder [the five-day-a-week Hebrew day school] in Baltimore. His parents were observant Jews, and the combination gave him his religious background. His father, David Schuchat, was a founder of Beth Tefilah Congregation [in Baltimore]. As far as I know, the name has always been spelled Schuchat in English, with the two *c*'s. As I wrote above, the name far [long] preceded my husband's becoming a Shochet.

Our daughter BETSY [SCHUCHAT] was born on June 3, 1918, and our first son, THEODOR [SCHUCHAT], on June 15, 1923. Both of them were born in Baltimore, and Theodor was the first male Schuchat in a long, long time.

[Our son] MICHAEL [SCHUCHAT] was born on December 15, 1924, in Marlinton. The Mohel was brought from Baltimore, and all of our Gentil[e] as well as Jewish friends were invited to what I believe was the first Brith [circumcision ceremony] ever held in Marlinton.

[Our son] DAVID GEORGE [SCHUCHAT] was born at Marlinton on June 16, 1930, and the Mohel was brought from Charleston by Secretary of State [of West Virginia] George W. Sharp, who came down with him and insisted that David also be named George because he had brought the Mohel!

We lived in Marlinton for fourteen years (until 1930), and then we sold the store and returned to Baltimore. We had always planned to go back [to Baltimore] when the boys were ready for Hebrew School. While we lived in Marlinton we would buy Hebrew books from the Block [Bloch] Publishing Company [of New York] when we went on buying trips to New York, and when we returned to Baltimore Betsy was able to enter Sunday School in her correct grade. The boys went to Beth Tefiloh [Tefilah] Hebrew School in Baltimore, and we joined

that congregation. Mr. Schuchat's father [David Schuchat] had been one of the early members, and Mr. [Simon] Schuchat was active as a member of the Board of Beth Tefiloh Congregation until his death at Baltimore in October, 1945. As long as our children attended Hebrew School, I was an active member of the Board of it.

BETSY [SCHUCHAT] went to West Virginia University and graduated in 1939. While there she was president of the Sigma Delta Tau sorority. She received a master's degree in social work at Tulane University, in New Orleans, and in 1946 she married Jerry Schoenholtz, a business agent for the ILGWU [International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union]. They live in New York, and she is currently Directress of Social Services of the French Hospital.

[THEODOR] SCHUCHAT, the eldest son of Simon and Sara S. Schuchat, attended West Virginia University until he went into the Army Signal Corps in 1942. He graduated from the New School for Social Research in New York after the [Second World] War, and was an information specialist with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare until he became the executive director of the Social Legislation Information Service, in Washington, D. C. On December 27, 1958, Theodor Schuchat was married to Bertha Moscov, of Washington, D. C.

MICHAEL [SCHUCHAT] began college at Carnegie Tech [the Carnegie Institute of Technology], in Pittsburgh, and then joined the Naval ROTC. He graduated from Yale University in the class of [19]45W, and then served as an ensign on a destroyer in the Pacific. After graduating from Georgetown Law School, he clerked for Judge Charles Fahey, of the United States Court of Appeals in Washington. He was recalled during the Korean War and served in the Caribbean and in North Africa. He is a member of the law firm of Geiger, Harmel and Schuchat. He married Mollie Geiger, of the District of Columbia, in 1953, and has three children, Simon, Frank, and Betty Schuchat. [Michael Schuchat's older son, Simon Schuchat, would thus appear to have been named after his grandfather, the original Simon Schuchat who was the husband of Mrs. Sara Schwartz Schuchat.]

DAVID [DAVID GEORGE SCHUCHAT] attended West Virginia University, George Washington University, and Johns Hopkins University. He served in the Quartermaster Corps of the Army in Munich. He owns a tea company in Baltimore, and is engaged in real estate in Washington and Baltimore. He lives with me at 3413 Glen Avenue (please note the new address), Baltimore 15, Md.

We all have close ties to Marlinton. We go back as often as we can, and I still subscribe to the *Pocahontas Times* (a weekly), founded by the Price Family. The newspaper still publishes news of marriages and births in my family. Marlinton was a very liberal place to live for a Jew, and people were accepted for what they were. . . .

P.S. I have a poem composed on October 20, 1930, by the late Dr. James Madison Price to us, on our leaving Marlinton. I shall send you a copy. I think it is very good. . . .

"Mrs. Sara [Schwartz] Schuchat (Mrs. Simon Schuchat),
"3413 Glen Avenue,
Baltimore 15, Md."

"FRIENDS AND FLOWERS"

In Wyllie Manor's merry mansion halls,
Glad meetings (with the partings of regret),
Soft music, and softer footstep falls
In measures of grand, stately minuet.

Friends losing the old days and ways,
We can not know or show a reason why,
Hoping for them to stay with us always,
And never, the forever, last good bye.

The year our flowers lost the summer showers,
We could not keep them so they would not fade,
Too soon the roses were a sombre shade
Yet memories of their fragrance still are ours.

Some flowers' leaves are of the evergreen,
The leaf that keeps the verdure ever new
In summer, and our autumn hours, too,
As waving over water ways they lean.

October 20, 1930 J.[ames] M.[adison] Price

Banquet of farewell in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Schuchat.

MARMET

Marmet is a town in Kanawha County, in west central West Virginia, located on the Kanawha River, eight miles south southeast of Charleston. It was incorporated in 1921. In 1950 it had a general population of 2,515 (1950 United States Census).

No Jews were living in Marmet in 1958–1959, and, apparently, no Jewish families or persons ever resided in the town. This was, without doubt, because of its proximity to Charleston, where Jewish persons preferred to settle and to work.

MARTINSBURG

GENERAL

Martinsburg is an industrial city in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, in the northeastern part of the state. It is situated at an altitude of 435 feet above sea level, 17 miles south southwest of Hagerstown, Md., and 70 miles northwest of Washington, D. C. Martinsburg is the county seat of Berkeley County.

Martinsburg was first settled in 1774 to 1776, and was chartered as a village [or as a town, as some historians believe] in 1778, then later as a town, and still later, in 1859, as a city. In 1940, it was reported (United States Census) to have a population of 15,063. In 1955, its population was given as 15,600. The United States Census of 1950 gave Martinsburg a general population of 15,621.

Martinsburg is noted for its manufacture of textiles (especially woollens), hosiery, furniture, cement, wood products, and bricks. Large deposits of shale, limestone, and clay are to be found in its immediate vicinity, and are utilized. It is, in addition to being an industrial city, also a commercial and livestock center, and also a center for agriculture. It is located in an apple- and peach-growing center, and it produces and ships these fruits and also byproducts of the livestock industry. Martinsburg's location is at the entrance to the Shenandoah Valley. The city is served by both the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; the latter maintains a large repair shop in Martinsburg.

During the Civil War, Martinsburg was occupied, successively, by Federal and Confederate armies. It derives its name from Colonel Thomas Bryan Martin, and was laid out, originally, as a village, by General Adam Stephen.

Bunker Hill Village, ten miles to the southwest of Martinsburg, is the site of the oldest recorded settlement in all West Virginia. Bunker Hill Village was settled about the year 1729.